GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:454
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
ANTI RETROVIRAL THERAPY
Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had announced a plan on November30, 2003 to place 1,00,000 HIV/AIDS cases on structured anti-retroviral therapy by 2005 and 15-20 % additional cases thereafter for five years ;

(b) if so, the details and the target achieved thereof;

(c) whether the Government`s attention has been drawn to a WHO-UNAIDS report on global access to HIV Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) stating that in India, ART coverage is a mearly 4-9%

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the remedial measures taken by the Government to fight the deadly disease?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Government had announced a plan for introduction of antiretroviral therapy. Accordingly from 1st April 2004 ART was started in 8 government medical colleges in the first phase and by the end of financial year 2004-05, 25 ART centre as per target. The target of 1,00,000 patients was for December 2007 and not for 2005.

(b) The target for the year 2004-05 was to start ART at 25 hospitals and the same has been achieved. Till now, 10,255 patients are put on ART at 25 hospitals. Additional about 9000 patients are taking ART from other government centres like Defence, Railways, ESIC etc.

(c) to (e) News item in the Times of India dated 1st July,2005 on WAIT for AIDS THERAPY has been published indicating WHO-UNAIDS Report. The figure of 7.35 lakh AIDS cases waiting for ART Therapy is not correct. The ART therapy available only in 6 states is also not correct. ART therapy is currently available in 13 States through 25 centers. There are a total of 1,03,857 AIDS cases reported by the States

(f) The following remedial measures have been taken:

- GFATM Round four ART project has been approved by the Govt. for Implementation of the ART services to 1,80,000 patients through 188 centers in 6 high prevalence States and Delhi in a phased manner over a period of next 5 years.

- ART services are being extended in other states as well. Besides existing 25 ART centers, additional 14 centers have been sanctioned for ART and it is planned to extend ART services through a total of 100 centers by the end of current year

- Publicity is being carried out about availability of free ART services

- Training of doctors, nurses and other categories of staff is being conducted so that all the centers implement ART effectively

-Laboratory facilities are being strengthened by providing facility of CD4 testing

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